Tingey House

Silent Witness to Our Navy's History

Martin R. Waldman

Tingey House

Silent Witness to Our Navy's History

Tingey House

Silent Witness to Our Navy's History

Martin R. Waldman

Naval History and Heritage Command
Department of the Navy
Washington, DC
2021

Produced by

Naval History and Heritage Command
805 Kidder Breese Street SE
Washington Navy Yard, DC
20374-5060

www.history.navy.mil

Cover image: Historic Tingey House, Quarters "A," Washington Navy Yard (U.S. Navy photo/200623-N-BB269-1017)

Use of ISBN: This is an official U.S. Government edition of this publication and is herein identified to certify its authenticity. Use of ISBN 978-1-943604-68-5 is for this edition only. A Section 508–compliant PDF is cataloged under ISBN 978-1-943604-69-2.

Contents

A sketch of Tingey House as it is thought to have appeared circa 1820. (NHHC)

City of Washington from beyond the Navy Yard, by G. Cooke. This aquatint was engraved and painted around 1833. (Library of Congress LC-DIG-pga-00192)

I

A History of Tingey House

For over two centuries, Tingey House has stood at the northern edge of the Washington Navy Yard bearing silent witness to our Navy's history. Under its roof, the commandants of the yard tended to their labors day and night, entertained presidents, foreign dignitaries, and military heroes, and wrestled with fateful decisions that would have national consequences. It was here that Thomas Tingey made his preparations to burn the Navy Yard in 1814, here that Franklin Buchanan contemplated resigning his commission and joining the Confederacy, here that John Dahlgren spent both the tumultuous opening days of the Civil War and the final tranquil years of his life, and here that so many of his successors anxiously ruminated on how they might meet their nation's desperate need for ordnance during two world wars. To this already considerable legacy, the Chiefs of Naval Operations have added their own luster, working tirelessly to restore the house even as they grappled with the challenges of preparing the Navy for the 21st century. More so than any single architectural feature, it is this long and active history that sets Tingey House apart, reminding us that our Navy's history and heritage is not just defined by what happens out at sea, but also by the labor of those serving ashore.

Thomas Tingey

Captain Thomas Tingey, by Orlando S. Lagman. (NHHC 65-033-J)

Born in England in 1750, Thomas Tingey began his naval career as a midshipman in the Royal Navy. After resigning from the service and moving to Philadelphia in 1772, he embarked on a successful career as a merchant seaman. Although Tingey had retired to the countryside by 1798, the promise of a captaincy in the U.S. Navy and a strong desire to serve his adopted country during the Quasi-War with France were sufficient to lure him back out to sea. Following a successful cruise in the West Indies, Tingey was ordered to take command of the Washington Navy Yard in 1800.

The history of Tingey House is inseparable from the career of its longest-tenured resident, Commodore Thomas Tingey. A lifelong mariner, Tingey had been promised command of a 74-gun ship of the line following a successful cruise in the West Indies during the Quasi-War with France. There was a catch, however: he would not only have to superintend the ship's construction, but also that of the navy yard tasked with building it. Thus, on a wintry day in February 1800, the roly-poly Englishman[1] trudged through deep snows to survey his new command along the Anacostia River. Owing to delays and unfulfilled contracts, the sight that greeted Tingey was not especially encouraging, consisting of little more than unguarded piles of lumber, but the proud captain was determined to make the most of the situation.[2] Although he did not realize it at the time, the task of turning all that lumber into wharves, workshops, and ships would become Tingey's all-consuming passion for nearly 29 years, the better part of which he would spend living in the house that now bears his name.

For all that we know of Tingey's first days on the Washington Navy Yard, we cannot precisely date when his house was built, let alone identify who built it. Our earliest indication that any planning was even being undertaken for the residence is found in an October 1801 letter sent to the commodore by Secretary of the Navy Robert Smith, who instructed him "to contract with Mssr. Lovering and Dyer for the building of a house to accommodate the officer of Marines and the Superintendent of the Navy Yard, agreeable to the enclosed plan, and have it forwarded with all necessary expedition. All extra work will be allowed for."[3] Interestingly, city records from November 1801 do indicate that there were now two wooden houses on the Navy Yard, but given the short time frame from when Smith wrote his letter and the fact that Tingey House is a brick structure, it seems rather unlikely that either of these was the proposed superintendent's house.[4]

It is much more probable that Tingey House was constructed sometime around 1804, perhaps during the brief period that Tingey's second-in-command, Lieutenant John Cassin, held the position of superintendent.[5] In the plans for the Navy Yard that he drew up in 1804, architect Benjamin Latrobe proposed that, "In the center of the upper part of the yard . . . the first officer of the yard shall reside, as does the commissioner of the King's yard in England and the intendant formerly in France. From this situation the whole yard is under his eye. The second officer

I propose shall inhabit that now occupied by Captain Cassin."[6] To the best of our knowledge, the first house described by Latrobe was never actually built, as Tingey would continue to plead with Robert Smith for a "house within the yard for the commandant" and that, "Mr. Latrobe be directed to furnish the plan of this house immediately."[7] Cassin's residence, on the other hand, is clearly identified in a rough sketch of the Navy Yard that Latrobe drew in 1805. Although the drawing itself is rather crude, consisting of little more than lines marking the boundaries of the yard and few of its features, the house does appear to be located next to the Latrobe Gate in approximately the same spot as Tingey House.[8] This, coupled with Latrobe's later denials that he was at all involved in the latter's construction, would seem to suggest that Cassin's house and Tingey House are, in fact, one and the same.[9]

For his part, Thomas Tingey did not cease his efforts to obtain a house of his own. Although he lived but a short walk away from the yard, the captain continued to lobby Secretary of the Navy Smith for a house that was actually on the premises, arguing in 1807 that such a residence would enable him "to be always at my post—Night and Day. I cannot hesitate to state my opinion that, the duties of the yard will be much facilitated, and consequently the Public interest benefitted thereby, more, than will be commensurate with the expence thereof, which however need not be great." He went on to contend, "Independent of this, by being thus always at home, many irregularities, or casualties, may be checked, or prevented, which the other officers of the yard, may not, at all times, find their authority adequate to."[10] The captain's pleas appear to have fallen on deaf ears, however, as the only work done on any house that year appears to have been on Cassin's residence.[11] One can only imagine how galling it must have been for Tingey to request funds for bricks and shingles for Cassin's quarters when he could not even secure a house of his own!

An engraved portrait of Captain John Cassin, c. 1812. (NHHC NH 51606).

Tingey would ultimately have to wait until John Cassin was reassigned to Gosport Navy Yard, Virginia, in 1812 to take up residence on the Washington Navy Yard.[12] Moving into the house vacated by his former subordinate, Tingey's need "to be always at my post—Night and Day" was now even more urgent owing to the onset of war between Great Britain and the United States. Although the early stages of the conflict were largely fought out at sea and on the northern frontier, by 24 August 1814, the British were almost literally on the captain's doorstep, having successfully routed U.S. forces at nearby Bladensburg. Ordered to prevent the yard from falling into enemy hands, Tingey made frantic preparations to put it to the torch. Concerned that the wind would spread the fire to the surrounding neighborhood (and perhaps his own home), the reluctant commandant delayed setting it until about half past eight o'clock in the evening, whereupon he immediately boarded a gig and sailed downriver to Alexandria, just barely avoiding capture by the British.

British soldiers occupied the yard only a short time, setting fire to anything that had not yet been burned save for the commandant's

Burning of the Washington Navy Yard

In the long history of the Washington Navy Yard, few events loom as large as Thomas Tingey's decision to put his command to the torch on 24 August 1814. Controversial even in its own time, this event was one of the defining moments of Tingey's long career. Below is an excerpt from a letter that Tingey sent to Secretary of the Navy William Jones on 27 August 1814 describing the frantic preparations that took place on the yard that fateful day, as well as the chaos that gripped the city of Washington:

After receiving your orders of 24th directing the public Shipping, Stores &c: at this Establishment, to be destroy'd, in case of the success of the enemy, over our Army—no time was lost, in making the necessary arrangements, for firing the whole, and preparing boats for departing from the yard, as you had suggested.

About 4 PM: I rece'd a message by an officer from the Secretary of War—with information that, he "could protect me no longer"—Soon after this, I was inform'd that the conflagration of the Eastern branch bridge had commenc'd and, in a few minutes the explosion announc'd the blowing up of that part, near the "draw," as had been arranged in the morning....

...The evening came, and I waited with much anxiety the return of Captn. C— [John O. Creighton], having almost perpetual continual information that, the enemy were in the neighbourhood of the Marine barracks—at the Capitol hill—and that their "advance" was near George town—I therefore determined to wait only until '/2 past 8 oClock, to commence the execution of my orders—becoming apprehensive that Captn. C— had, from his long stay, fallen into the hands of the enemy. During this delay, I ordered a few Marines, and other persons who were then near me, to go off in one of the small gallies, which was done and she is saved. Colnl. Wharton had been furnish'd with a light boat, with which he left the yard, probably between 7 & 8 o'clock.

At 20 minutes past 8 Captn. Creighton return'd, he was still extremely averse to the destruction of the property, but having inform'd him that your orders to me were imperative; the proper disposition of the boats being made, the matches were applied, and in a few moments the whole was in a state of irretrievable conflagration. When about leaving the wharf, I observed the fire had also commenc'd at the works at Greenleafs point, and in the way out of the branch, we observed the Capitol on fire.

—Thomas Tingey, 27 August 1814

The British Capture Washington (from Paul M. Rapin de Thoyras, *The History of England, from the Earliest Periods*, Vol. 1, 1816 edition).

residence, the Marine Barracks, and the Latrobe Gate. Much to Tingey's consternation, his neighbors were not nearly as respectful in their treatment of his house. As he indignantly reported to Secretary of the Navy William Jones, "I had no sooner gone, than such a scene of devastation and plunder took place in the houses (by the people of the neighbourhood) as is disgraceful to relate—not a moveable article from the cellars to the garrets had been left us—and even some of the fixtures, and the locks off the doors, have been shamefully pillaged, some of the perpetrators have been made known to me."[13] Not surprisingly, Tingey's first recommendation to the Secretary upon returning to the yard was to build a 10-foot wall to thwart would-be looters.[14]

Tingey would maintain a suspicious attitude toward his neighbors until his dying day, but this did not deter him from throwing open his doors to guests near and far once the war had ended in 1815. The very soul of conviviality, the commodore brought to hosting and event planning the same sort of zeal and organizational skills that had made him such an effective administrator of the yard. Mary Crowninshield, wife of then–Secretary of the Navy Benjamin Crowninshield, spoke for many when she observed in 1815 that, "They always have high times [at Tingey's House]."[15] Over the next decade, Tingey would have many opportunities to reinforce this impression, entertaining family, friends, and government officials with his characteristic

degree of attentiveness. However, of all the noteworthy guests who passed his threshold, perhaps the most illustrious was the Marquis de Lafayette. Extending an invitation to visit the Washington Navy Yard on 15 October 1824, Tingey gave the hero of the American Revolution and his entourage (which included Secretary of State John Quincy Adams) a personal tour of the yard, followed by refreshments back at his house.[16] For one who took intense personal pride in his hosting abilities, this was arguably Thomas Tingey's crowning achievement.

Regrettably, it was not long after Lafayette's visit that Tingey's health began to fail him. More and more, illness and infirmity forced the aging commodore to work from home, his ability to supervise the yard sometimes limited to whatever he could see through his bedroom window. Nonetheless, Tingey held on for a few more years, conducting the regular business of the yard until 2 February 1829. It was at this point that the 78-year-old commandant was finally forced to acknowledge that he no longer had the "lively energy of a youthful seaman." Asking to be relieved of his responsibilities as Navy agent for the yard,[17] he died in his beloved house just three weeks later on 23 February 1829.

Although he was not its first resident nor its last, no other individual would reside in the commandant's house for as many years as Thomas Tingey. For 17 years, he had lived, worked, and entertained under its roof, establishing a reputation as an administrator of singular competence and a host of unparalleled geniality. Such was his association with the house that, following his death, rumors arose that he had actually attempted to pass it down to his descendants, a move that the Navy understandably balked at.[18] Angry at his final wishes being so denied, the commandant's ghost began to haunt the premises, appearing to frightened onlookers clad in a white nightshirt with a gold-braided top hat on his head and a brass spyglass under his arm.

Gilbert du Motier, Marquis de Lafayette, by Ary Scheffer. Gift from the artist to the House of Representatives on the occasion of Lafayette's visit in 1824. (Collection of the U.S. House of Representatives 2005.018.000)

While the first half of this claim is rather easily debunked (Tingey died intestate), the ghost sightings persisted well into the 20th century,[19] serving as a spectral reminder to the commodore's successors that even in death, he intended to stay at his post "night and day."

Following Tingey's passing, command of the yard and possession of his quarters (henceforth referred to by its later designation, Quarters "A")[20] fell to his good friend, Isaac Hull. A veteran of both the first Barbary War and the War of 1812 (he had commanded *Constitution* during its famous engagement with HMS *Guerriere*), Hull had eagerly sought the post, but was soon disappointed to learn that both the yard and Quarters "A" were in dire need of upkeep. Rather than moving in immediately as he had planned,

Ghost Stories

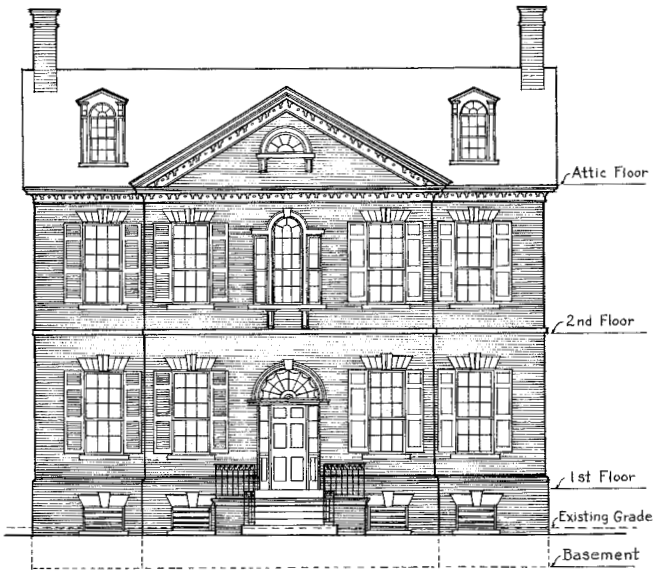
Like many old houses, Tingey House has its fair share of ghost sightings. Since the 1850s, stories have circulated that Commodore Tingey's ghost could be seen walking the Navy Yard and peering out of the house's windows in the twilight hours. Although the ghost supposedly quit the Washington Navy Yard with a piercing shriek after the installation's name was changed to the U.S. Naval Gun Factory on 1 December 1945, Rear Admiral Thomas Robbins (1960–62) claimed that the commodore's presence manifested itself shortly after he took up residence. According to Robbins, his doberman pinscher, Lucky, began barking wildly at an empty drawing room chair. With the utmost decorum, Robbins greeted his spectral host, stating, "Good evening, Commodore, we're glad to be living in your house." Two weeks later, Lucky started barking again at the empty chair, but swiftly jumped back as though she had been kicked. Unperturbed, Robbins remarked, "I must apologize for the dog, Commodore."

Tingey's ghost is not the only one to have been detected by the house's canine residents. Leila Pettengill, wife of Rear Admiral George T. Pettengill (1936–42), recalled that, on one occasion, their Pekinese, Oh-Fat, froze on the staircase, its fur raised in fright. When Mrs. Pettengill went upstairs to investigate, she beheld a tall soldier dressed in a red coat who vanished into thin air right in front of her very eyes! Although she swiftly called the guards, no trace of the spectral intruder remained.

the new commandant instead found himself spending much of the summer getting the house into a livable state by repainting the interior and exterior walls, repairing the fireplaces, patching damaged plaster, installing a drain in the cellar to prevent the damp from further damaging the walls, replacing most of the furniture, and laying down painted oilcloth in the public rooms of the house. Unfortunately for Hull, this would only be the first of many difficulties that he would encounter during his tenure as commandant. Following six tumultuous years that culminated in a major labor strike and the infamous "Snow Riot," the beleaguered officer would be all too eager to resign his post and get back out to sea.[21]

Hull's successors enjoyed considerably calmer tenures, with most commanding the yard for only two to three years before death or other duties removed them. Limited though their time at the yard was, it appears that at least some of them took the opportunity to modify Quarters "A." By the mid-19th century, the Georgian-style house had gradually assumed its present-day Victorian character, with new wings (including the dining and music rooms) added and updates made to the trim in existing sections.[22] As Captain French Forrest[23] found out, however, there were limits on what one could get the Navy to pay for; his request for new carpets and a cooking stove was swiftly denied because Navy regulations forbade the furnishing of officer's homes without a special appropriation.[24]

This would be the least of Forrest's grievances with the Navy and the U.S. government in the coming years. Like much of the nation, Quarters "A" became a "house divided" during the Civil War, with former commandants (includ-

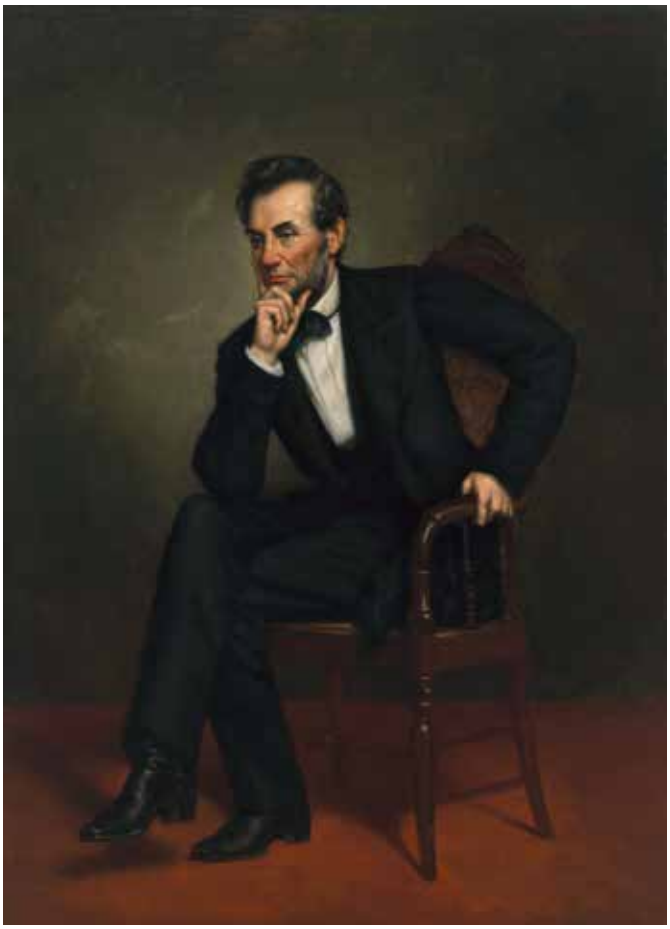


Tingey House as it is thought to have originally appeared. Drawing by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS DC, WASH, 74A—Sheet 2), 1936. (Library of Congress)

ing Captain Forrest) fighting on both sides of the conflict.[25] The most notable (and controversial) of these was Captain Franklin Buchanan, who held the post of commandant at the war's outbreak. One of the Navy's most distinguished officers, Buchanan had previously served as the first superintendent of the U.S. Naval Academy and as Commodore Matthew Perry's right-hand man during the famed expedition to Japan. Such was the respect and influence he commanded that even the newly elected President Lincoln paid a visit to Quarters "A" on 3 April 1861 to attend Buchanan's daughter's wedding. Knowing full well that Buchanan and his family harbored strong pro-slavery sentiments, the President embarked on a charm offensive, escorting the blushing bride into the dining room after the ceremony and amusing guests with his folksy sense of humor. Even Buchanan's younger daughter, Elizabeth, who had defiantly declared that she would not shake Lincoln's hand, found herself disarmed by the jocular Commander-in-Chief, particularly after he teasingly referred to her as the "little rebel."[26]

This cessation of hostilities was, unfortunately, only temporary. Believing that Maryland would side with the other southern states, Buchanan tendered his resignation on 22 April 1861, a move he would swiftly come to regret upon learning that his home state would not, in fact, secede from the Union. Unable to rescind his resignation, the embittered commandant prepared to quit the yard and shift his allegiance to the Confederacy, but not before ensuring that he left his post in good order. In what was, arguably, one of the few wise decisions that he made during the Civil War, Buchanan appointed a junior officer, Commander John A. Dahlgren, to replace him as commandant of the yard.[27]

Although, by law, command of the Washington Navy Yard could only be held by someone of a more senior rank,[28] Dahlgren was no ordinary officer. For 14 years, he had labored tirelessly on the yard under the auspices of the Bureau of Ordnance and Hydrography, becoming one of the Navy's premier ordnance experts and the inventor of the eponymously named Dahlgren gun. Now, it fell to him to secure the yard against possible insurrection. Suffice it to say, Dahlgren's first few days as commandant were a veritable whirlwind of activity, requiring him to spend almost every waking hour in close proximity to the wharves. The arrival of the 71st Regiment of the New York State Militia further complicated matters, as housing arrangements needed to be made for the weary soldiers and officers who were tasked with the yard's protection. Having had precious little time to move into his new house, Dahlgren temporarily relinquished Quarters "A" to the regiment's officers until more permanent housing arrangements could be made.[29]



Abraham Lincoln, by George Peter Alexander Healy. Lincoln is just one of a number of presidents who have visited Tingey House. (Smithsonian Institution National Portrait Gallery NPG.65.50)

The Changing of the Yard, Part I

An engraving of the Washington Navy Yard as it looked on the eve of the Civil War. The two ships moored at the yard are USS *Pensacola* and USS *Pawnee*. (NHHC NH 51928 KN)

Built on the Washington Navy Yard's highest point, Quarters "A" was positioned to allow the commandants to supervise the work of the yard all the way down to the water's edge. However, the yard itself changed significantly over the ensuing decades. By the end of Thomas Tingey's life, the yard's core function had gradually shifted from shipbuilding to the manufacturing of essential ship parts such as anchors, chain cable, and steam plants. Naturally, this required many more workshops, not to mention a larger staff to administer the yard. In response, the Commandant's Office (Building 1) was built in 1837/1838 to serve as their primary workplace and (in John Dahlgren's case) temporary residence.

Following the tragic deaths of former Navy Yard commandant Beverley Kennon, Secretary of State Abel Upshur, Secretary of the Navy Thomas Gilmer, and scores of others in the infamous "Peacemaker" gun explosion on board USS *Princeton* in 1844, the Navy Yard gradually assumed a greater role in the development, testing, and production of naval ordnance, including rockets, mines, and cannons. John Dahlgren, who arrived on the yard in 1847, played a critical role in this development, not only designing and testing ordnance, but also expanding the yard's facilities to meet production demands. It was this mission that would shape the Navy Yard's activities for the next century.

Dahlgren himself would spend his first weeks as commandant eating and sleeping either in his office or on board one of the nearby ships.[30] While this made it easier for him to supervise the work taking place at the wharves, it also left him ill-prepared to properly host President Lincoln during the latter's frequent visits to the yard. Fortunately, this arrangement would be only temporary. Once the initial threat to Washington, DC, and the Navy Yard had subsided, the harried commandant finally took up residence in Quarters "A." There, he would frequently entertain the President as well as other officials and visiting dignitaries, such as Napoléon-Jérôme Bonaparte, cousin of Emperor Napoleon III of France.[31]

Dahlgren would eventually relinquish his post in 1862 to head up the Bureau of Ordnance and then go on to command the South Atlantic Blockading Squadron in 1863. He would not be gone from the yard or Quarters "A" for long, however. Following the end of the Civil War and an unsatisfying second stint as Chief of the Bureau of Ordnance, the veteran officer was all too eager to take up his former post as commandant of the Navy Yard. Wryly noting in his journal on 10 August 1869 that he had taken "command, under very different circumstances, of this Yard, April

19th-Century Residents

Captain Isaac Hull (1829–35): One of the early Navy's most distinguished officers, Isaac Hull ably served his country during the Quasi-War, the First Barbary War, and the War of 1812. Although he held a number of commands during these conflicts, he is best known for commanding USS *Constitution* during her engagement with HMS *Guerriere*, the first American frigate victory of the War of 1812. Just as capable ashore as he was afloat, Hull also held commands at both Portsmouth and Charlestown navy yards prior to assuming command of the Washington Navy Yard. (NHHC 65-033-C)

Captain Daniel T. Patterson (1836–39): A veteran of the Quasi-War and the First Barbary War, Daniel Patterson commanded the much-neglected New Orleans Station during the War of 1812. He played a crucial role at the Battle of New Orleans in 1815, delaying the British landings and providing naval gunfire support for Andrew Jackson's forces. After a long and fruitful career, he would spend his final years serving as commandant of the Washington Navy Yard. His son, Thomas H. Patterson, would hold the same post nearly four decades later, making them the only father-son pair to live in Tingey House. (John Wesley Jarvis, American, 1780–1840: *Commodore Daniel Todd Patterson*, ca. 1815, oil on canvas, 36 1/8 x 28 1/8 in. [1.8 x 71.4 cm], Chrysler Museum of Art, Norfolk, VA; museum purchase 65.34.6)

Captain Franklin Buchanan (1859–61): By the time he became commandant of the Washington Navy Yard, Franklin Buchanan had already fought in the Mexican War, served as the first superintendent of the U.S. Naval Academy, and commanded Commodore Matthew C. Perry's flagship during Perry's famed expedition to Japan. Regrettably, Buchanan resigned his post at the outbreak of the Civil War and joined the Confederacy. Commanding CSS *Virginia* (ex-*Merrimack*) at the Battle of Hampton Roads and CSS *Tennessee* at the Battle of Mobile Bay, he held the dubious distinction of being the Confederacy's first (and only) full admiral. (NHHC NH 61920)

Rear Admiral John A. Dahlgren (1861–62, 1869–71): The "Father of Naval Ordnance" and the inventor of the eponymous "Dahlgren Gun," John Dahlgren was one of the Washington Navy Yard's longest-tenured residents, having already served there 14 years prior to becoming commandant at the outset of the Civil War. He would subsequently command the Atlantic Blockading Squadron during its siege of Charleston, South Carolina, and the Pacific Squadron in the immediate aftermath of the Civil War. Following a frustrating stint as head of the Bureau of Ordnance, Dahlgren returned to his old post at the yard, serving until his death in 1871. (Library of Congress LC-DIG-cwpb-05803)

Commodore John B. Montgomery (1863–65): During six decades of service, John Montgomery fought in four wars from the Mediterranean to the Pacific. As a midshipman, he served on board Oliver Hazard Perry's flagship USS *Niagara* at the Battle of Lake Erie, and then as part of Stephen Decatur's squadron during the Second Barbary War. He is best known, however, for his service in the Mexican War, during which he and a detachment from *Portsmouth* raised the U.S. flag over Yerba Buena, better known today as San Francisco. The city's Montgomery Street (the "Wall Street of the West") is named for him. (Library of Congress LC-DIG-cwpb-06217)

22, 1861," Dahlgren's second tour of duty proved to be considerably calmer than the first. One of its major highlights was the wedding of his stepdaughter, Romaine Goddard, on 16 March 1870.[32] Similar to his predecessor, Dahlgren held both the wedding and reception at Quarters "A," though on this particular occasion, the political sympathies of the attendees were decidedly more pro-Union. The guest list not only included General William T. Sherman and Admiral David Dixon Porter, but even President Ulysses S. Grant, who had the honor of escorting the bride into the dining room.[33]

Regrettably, such felicitous moments swiftly gave way to tragedy, as Dahlgren lost his other daughter, Eva, on 29 April 1870. Less than three months later, he himself would be at death's door, suffering from heart failure. Writing years later, Madeleine Dahlgren could still vividly recall the final night she and her husband spent together in Quarters "A." Sitting in the admiral's favorite "study" (likely one of the parlors on the ground floor), they wiled away the evening discussing their family, their relationship, and their religious beliefs. As the hour grew late, the contemplative admiral "spoke of the dream of his life,—*his profession*,—in which he had merged such a wealth of patriotism. His final expression regarding an officer's career was, 'The officer should wear his uniform, as a judge his ermine, without a stain.'" Returning to his study the next morning on 12 July 1870, Dahlgren experienced one final bout of chest pain and passed away.[34] For the next three days, he would lay in state in his bedroom, guarded at all times by a pair of Navy officers. When the time finally came for him to go to his final resting place, his coffin was borne aloft by eight seamen and escorted out of the house by General Sherman and Admiral Porter.[35]

Not all occasions at the commandant's residence would be so somber. As the shadows of war receded and the nation healed, Quarters "A" once more became a place for entertaining Washington's social and military elite. Nestled within the "Society" section of the capital's leading newspapers, one often finds mentions of the commandants and their wives receiving guests at the house and even throwing large galas replete with ample refreshments, fashionable debutantes, and hours of dancing accompanied by the Marine Corps Band. A local newspaper captured the scene at one of these extravaganzas, describing Quarters "A" as "one of those spacious, old-fashioned houses, with large rooms, high ceilings, broad halls and porches, which make the modern pigeon-box of a house seem like a Pullman car for living purposes.... For two hours there was a stream of the nicest people in the Army, Navy, old resident and official circles of Washington, and the drawing-rooms, halls, porch and dining-room were crowded and animated to a degree." The article went on to single out the party's host, Commodore Joseph Skerrett, for special praise, declaring that, "The Commodore deserved to be made an admiral on the spot for the hospitable skill and administrative abilities he displayed as a host."[36]

Once the heady times of the late 19th century gave way to the tumultuous first half of the 20th, the commandants' administrative abilities would be needed for far more than just throwing galas. With one of the largest naval expansions in our country's history underway and the prospect of worldwide conflict on the horizon, now, more than ever, the Navy Yard required capable administrators who could ensure the smooth functioning and increased production of the nation's premier ordnance factory. Although few who resided in Quarters "A" during this critical period possessed the towering reputations of an Isaac Hull or a John Dahlgren, there were some, such as Eugene Leutze and Arthur Willard, who undertook their labors with the sort of administrative acumen that would have made Thomas Tingey proud.

Farewell to a Fallen Hero

John Dahlgren would not be the only Civil War hero to commence his final journey at Quarters "A." On 20 December 1874, a funeral was held at the house for Commander William Cushing. Although the 32-year-old Cushing was only the executive officer of the yard, he had already attained national fame thanks to his central role in a number of daring inshore raids during the Civil War, most notably against CSS *Albemarle* on 27–28 October 1864.

Among the Confederacy's most dangerous ships, the ironclad ram *Albemarle* had wreaked havoc upon the North Atlantic Blockading Squadron, sinking and severely damaging a number of ships. As the Navy was unable to sink her with the warships at hand, then-Lieutenant Cushing volunteered to lead a small raiding party up the Roanoke River to sink her. Rear Admiral David Porter gave final approval for the mission, but confided, "I have no great confidence in [Cushing's] success." Porter's misgivings notwithstanding, Cushing and his party sailed up the Roanoke River in a steam launch equipped with a torpedo. Although *Albemarle* was surrounded by a floating wooden barrier, Cushing managed to maneuver the launch over it and successfully detonated the torpedo against *Albemarle*'s hull, all the while under heavy enemy fire. He just barely managed to swim away and make it back to Union lines, one of only two members of the raid to do so. For his efforts, he was promoted to lieutenant commander, becoming one of the youngest officers to hold the rank at that time.

Cushing's deed was fresh in the minds of many who visited Quarters "A" on 20 December 1874. Eager to ensure that all who wished to honor Cushing would be able to do so, Commodore Thomas H. Patterson offered Mrs. Cushing and family the use of the house for the funeral. Attended by Admiral David Dixon Porter, Rear Admiral Charles Poor, Captain Oscar C. Badger, and Secretary of the Navy George Robeson, the service was conducted with the sort of reverence and solemnity normally reserved for much higher-ranking officers. As one newspaper reported, "Officers associated with [Cushing]—those who had learned through intimate companionship, to love the high character and to admire the bravery of the naval chieftain, who although so young, had shed immortal lustre upon American prowess—stood around the bier, bitterly weeping and sincerely mourning the gallant hero's death." At the end of the ceremony, eight sailors, including Commander Montgomery Sicard, who had served alongside Cushing at Fort Fisher, and Paymaster F. H. Swan, who had participated in the *Albemarle* raid, carried the coffin out of the house and placed it on the awaiting carriage. Preceded by the Marine Corps Band, two companies of Marines, and the National Guard, the cortege made its way to Congressional Cemetery, where Cushing was temporarily laid to rest alongside other Navy heroes such as Thomas Tingey and Daniel Patterson. His remains would subsequently be removed for permanent interment on the grounds of the United States Naval Academy.

Lieutenant William B. Cushing, c.1864. (NHHC NH 63224)

As if to emphasize this point, a plaque dedicated to the memory of the long-deceased commodore was installed on the northern wall of Quarters "A" on 28 November 1906. It read, "Died in this house February 23, 1829, Capt. Thomas Tingey, U.S.N., who for almost half a century served his country[37] as an officer of the navy. He laid out this navy yard and for twenty-eight years was its first commandant." Secretary of the Navy Charles Bonaparte, who spoke at the dedication, made it clear, however, that the plaque "was not intended to commemorate the deeds of Capt. Tingey alone, but of all naval officers who had performed their full duty to their country. Some of them had served faithfully and well while they were in comparative official obscurity, but they were none the less entitled to the fullest measure of gratitude and praise from their country.... It did not fall to the lot of many to be Drakes or Deweys."[38]

The commandants were not the only residents of Quarters "A" who labored in "comparative official obscurity" during this crucial period in our history; their wives also assumed an increasingly important role through their philanthropic work, particularly with the Navy Relief Society (known today as the Navy–Marine Corps Relief Society). Since the society's founding in 1904, many of these women had worked tirelessly on behalf of Navy families who had suffered loss and impoverishment, and had also served in executive roles within the organization and its DC auxiliary.[39] One of the more formidable members of this distinguished group was Mae Willard, who approached her work with the Navy Relief Society during World War I with the same level of zeal and tireless energy that her husband brought to overseeing the Navy Yard's ordnance production. Eager to raise money for the organization, she held a large bridge and tea party at Quarters "A" on 7 February 1918, with Eleanor Roosevelt and Mary Benson (wife of CNO William Benson) presiding over the tea tables.[40] Others would follow her example, occasionally using Quarters "A" for Navy Relief Society–related activities during the Great Depression and in the lead-up to World War II.[41]

Following the end of World War II, the armed services underwent one of the largest reorganizations in our history, leading to the birth of the United States Air Force and the integration of the Navy Department into the newly created Department of Defense. Naturally, all of this led to major turf wars over strategy, finances, and—yes—even housing. When Admiral Arthur Radford was selected to become Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in 1953, the Navy belatedly realized that there was no place to actually house him. Admiral's House at the U.S. Naval Observatory, which had served as the residence of the CNOs, had already been claimed by incoming CNO Robert Carney, while the home of Radford's predecessor, General Omar Bradley,

Installed in 1906, this plaque adorns Tingey House's western wall and serves as an everlasting honor to its longest-tenured resident. (U.S. Navy/200804-N-BB269-1148)

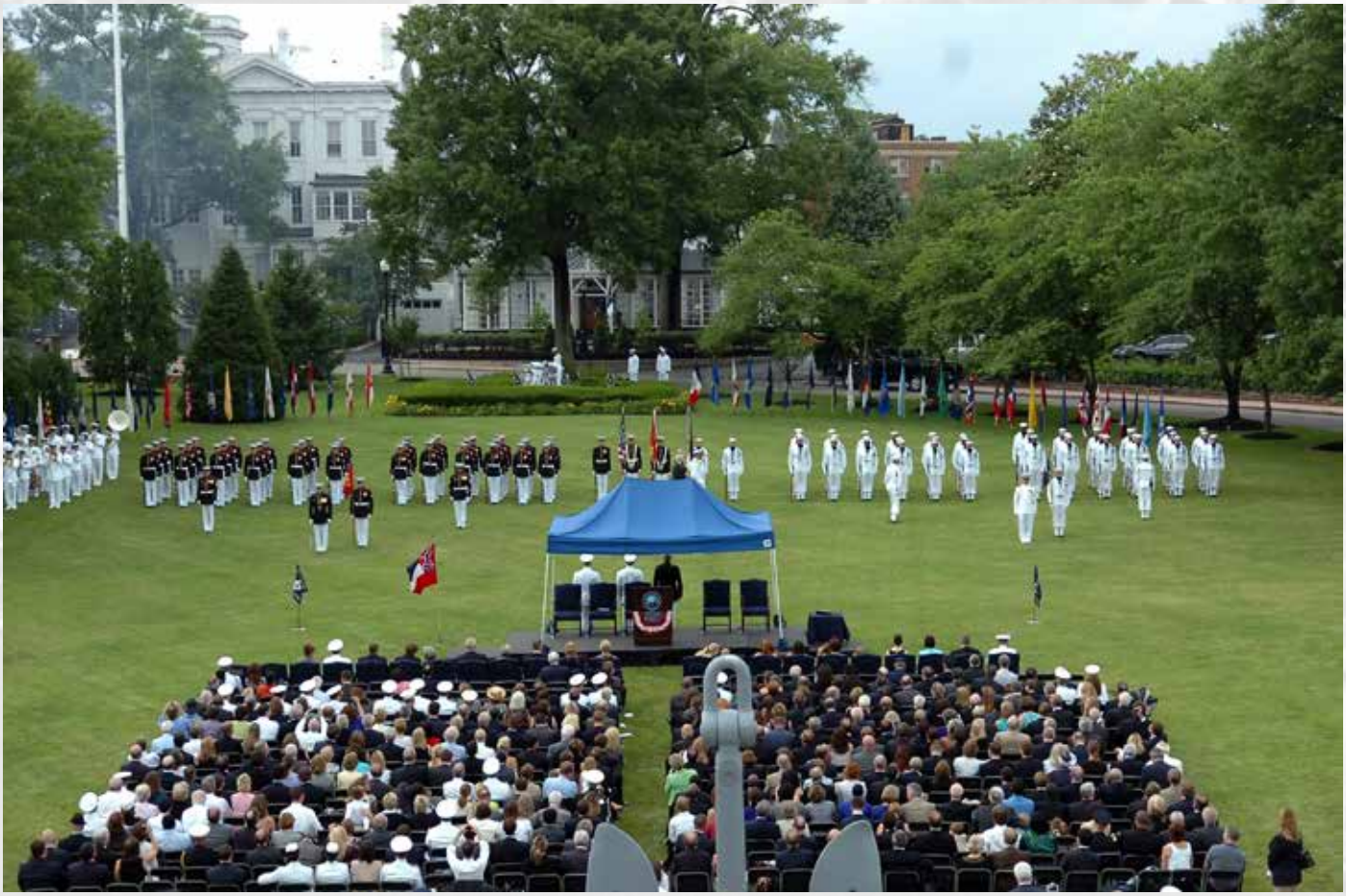
had likewise been taken over by Army Chief of Staff General Matthew Ridgway. Casting about for a residence suitable for one of Radford's stature, the Navy Department's gaze eventually fell upon Quarters "A." With its current occupant, Rear Admiral George H. Fort, commandant of the Potomac River Naval Command, retiring that year without a clear successor and Quarters "B" already occupied by the Superintendent of the Naval Gun Factory, Thomas Hill, it was a relatively simple matter of merging the two positions and leaving Quarters "A" available for Radford's use.[42] Thus, the problem was solved—or so it seemed. Having found a residence in northwest DC more to his liking, Radford would ultimately not take up residence in Quarters "A." Instead, Vice Admiral Robert Briscoe, Deputy CNO for Fleet Operations and Readiness, would occupy the house for a short spell before returning possession of it to its traditional occupants.

As headache-inducing as this drama was for the Navy, it did help to elevate the house's public profile and marked it out as a potential residence for other high-level Navy officials. Believing that a house of such stature and history required a more suitable name than Quarters "A," Virginia Baker, wife of Rear Admiral Harold D. Baker, decided to rechristen it "Tingey House" on 19 December 1956.[43] Much to her satisfaction, the reputation of "historic Tingey House" would only continue to grow in the coming years,

Changing of the Yard, Part II

The Navy Yard's role in ordnance manufacturing expanded drastically in the late 19th century, particularly after the establishment of the Naval Gun Factory in 1886. Initially responsible for manufacturing all naval ordnance for the Navy, the Naval Gun Factory armed many of the U.S. Navy's ships over the course of the Spanish-American War, World War I, World War II, the Korean War, and Vietnam. During World War II alone, the Gun Factory produced 236 16-inch, 370 12-inch and 8-inch, 134 6-inch, and 427 5-inch guns, and also served as the main center for the design and testing of new ordnance. Such was its importance that the venerable Washington Navy Yard was renamed the United States Naval Gun Factory in 1945.

This change proved to be only temporary, however, as the yard permanently ceased ordnance manufacturing in 1961 and reverted to its original name. Although much of the work on the yard would now largely be administrative, the Navy increasingly came to value the installation's rich history and heritage. Consequently, efforts were not only undertaken to preserve many of the yard's buildings and have them designated as historical landmarks, but also to make greater use of them for ceremonial functions. This is one of the many reasons why Tingey House was designated the official residence of the CNOs, as it not only emphasized their important role as the Navy's highest-ranking officers, but also more strongly associated them with the illustrious legacy of the yard and those who had so ably overseen it.



In the modern era, Tingey House and the Latrobe Gate have often served as the backdrop for important ceremonies on the yard such as the swearing-in of Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus in 2009. (U.S. Navy/090618-N-0388-K-072)

attracting public attention for its long (and haunted) history, and even occasionally serving as a reception venue for important events such as incoming CNO David L. McDonald's change of office ceremony.[44] All of this would culminate in the house being designated a historic landmark in 1973.[45]

The very next year, Congress passed legislation that would have long-term implications for Tingey House. Since 1966, plans had been in the works to build an official residence for the Vice President of the United States on the grounds of the U.S. Naval Observatory. Having made no progress on this, Congress passed another law in 1974 designating Admiral's House as a temporary residence for the Vice President. Incoming CNO James Holloway III was content to remain in his residence on the grounds of the Old Naval Hospital, but he knew a more permanent residence needed to be found for his successors. To that end, he proposed that Tingey House be designated as the official residence of all future CNOs and that funds be appropriated to renovate the house. Consequently, in 1978, Admiral Thomas B. Hayward became the first CNO to reside in Tingey House.[46]

Admiral James Holloway. (NHHC NH 103810)

Although Admiral Holloway never had the opportunity to reside in the house, both he and his wife, Dabney, took an active interest in the house's renovation and upkeep. With the assistance of Phyllis Wright,[47] Dabney Holloway established the Friends of Tingey House, an organization dedicated to the preservation and upkeep of the historic residence. Supported by the wives of former CNOs, the Naval Historical Foundation, and the Naval Historical Center, the Friends of Tingey House quickly acquired many period-appropriate (c.1820–50) pieces of furniture and artwork with which to furnish the house, an effort that eventually attracted the attention of Secretary of the Navy Edward Hidalgo. Wishing to ensure the continuing success of this endeavor, he asked the Naval Historical Foundation (then presided over by none other than James Holloway) to assume formal control of the program in 1981. Over the next 15 years, the foundation would continue to acquire furniture for the house and even oversee renovations to its public rooms in 1996.[48]

Regrettably, this latter effort would be overshadowed by the tragic suicide of CNO Jeremy "Mike" Boorda. The first CNO to have risen from the enlisted ranks, Boorda had been at the helm of the Navy during one of its most turbulent periods, overseeing the integration of women into the crews of surface combat vessels, as well as navigating the fallout from the Tailhook scandal.[49] Known for his affable manner and unwavering dedication to his Sailors, Boorda's suicide in Tingey House's garden on 16 May 1996 came as a shock to many, including President Bill Clinton, who visited the house shortly thereafter to grieve and pray with the departed CNO's family.[50] As everyone tried to make sense of this tragedy in the weeks that followed, it was Bettie Boorda who sought most to calm the trou-

20th-Century Residents

Rear Admiral Eugene H. C. Leutze (1905–10): The son of famed painter Emanuel Leutze (*Washington Crossing the Delaware*) and a native of Prussia, Eugene Leutze was appointed to the U.S. Naval Academy by Abraham Lincoln in 1863. During his long career, he served in both the Civil War and the Spanish-American War, and also conducted numerous hydrographic surveys of Central American waters. Considered one of the Navy's most capable administrators, he took command of the Washington Navy Yard in 1905, a post which he continued to hold even after he passed the mandatory retirement age. Leutze Park, the parade ground in front of Tingey House, bears his name. (U.S. Navy/F644 N188)

Captain Edward W. Eberle (1914–15): A veteran of the Battle of Santiago and one of the Navy's foremost training experts, Edward Eberle wrote one of the earliest training manuals for modern ordnance and pioneered the use of smokescreens by destroyers. After overseeing the Washington Navy Yard, he served as superintendent of the U.S. Naval Academy and, most importantly, as the third Chief of Naval Operations. As CNO, he established the NROTC, strenuously advocated for the continued importance and integration of naval aviation within the Fleet, and oversaw the completion of aircraft carriers *Lexington* (CV-2) and *Saratoga* (CV-3). (NHHC 19-N-7151)

Rear Admiral Arthur L. Willard (1917–19, 1927–30): During the Spanish-American War, Arthur Willard distinguished himself by leading a daring raid on a blockhouse near Cárdenas, Cuba, in 1898, earning him a $100 reward from the *New York Herald* for reportedly being the first person to raise the U.S. flag on Spanish soil. He subsequently took part in the expedition of the Great White Fleet and the invasion of Veracruz, Mexico, in 1914. An equally capable administrator, he commanded the Washington Navy Yard on two separate occasions and received the Navy Cross for his success in meeting wartime demands during World War I. Willard Park on the Navy Yard is named in his honor. (U.S. Navy)

Vice Admiral Robert P. Briscoe (1954–56): The rare officer to occupy Tingey House who was not also a commandant of the yard, Robert Briscoe served honorably in World War I, World War II, and the Korean War. In 1943, he was awarded the Navy Cross for extraordinary heroism at the Battle of Empress Augusta Bay (1943) while in command of USS *Denver* (CL-58). During the height of the Korean War, he assumed command of Seventh Fleet and was subsequently designated Commander Naval Forces, Far East, He went on to serve as Deputy CNO, Fleet Operations and Readiness, and then as Commander in Chief, Allied Forces, Southern Europe. (U.S. Navy)

Admiral Thomas B. Hayward (1978–82): The first CNO to reside in Tingey House, Thomas Hayward not only significantly influenced President Reagan's Maritime Strategy, but also shepherded the Navy through its difficult transition to an all-volunteer force with his strong emphasis on "Pride and Professionalism." Prior to this, he led a distinguished career as a naval aviator, flying numerous missions in both Korea and Vietnam, and earning both the Distinguished Flying Cross and 13 Air Medals. (NHHC K-115807)

bled waters by sharing some of the final words her husband had written to his Sailors on that fateful day at Tingey House: "You are the heart and soul of our Navy.… Take care of each other. Be honorable. Do what is right. Forgive when it makes sense, punish when you must, but always work to make the latter unnecessary by working to help people be all they really can be and should be."[51]

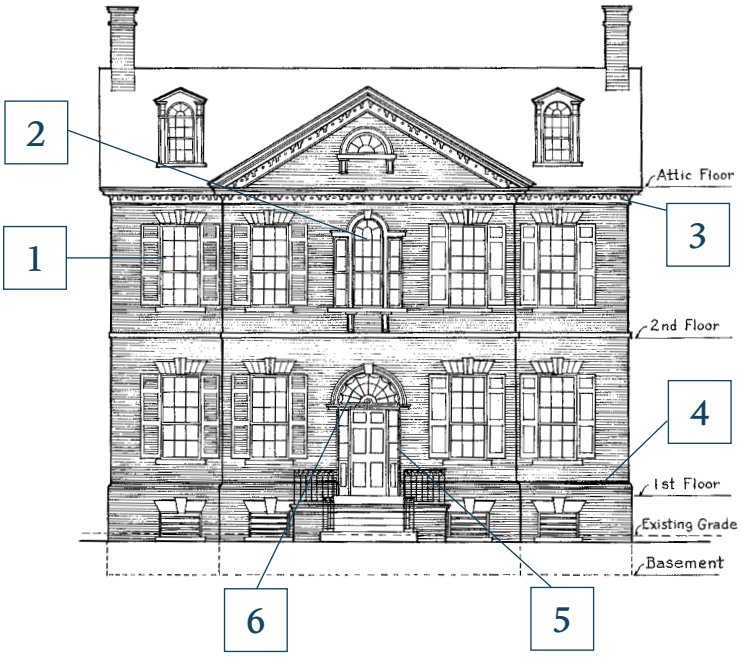
The CNOs would not again reside in Tingey House until Admiral Vern Clark took up residence in 2000. By this point, however, the house was beginning to show its age. Plagued by a mold problem that was severe enough to force CNO Michael Mullen into other quarters in 2005,[52] it was clear that an extensive rehabilitation would need to be undertaken in order to make Tingey House habitable once more. Fortunately, the residence had allies in incoming CNO Gary Roughead and his wife, Ellen. Eager to see the residence restored to its former glory, the Rougheads oversaw a comprehensive effort to rehabilitate the house from December 2007 to August 2008. During that time, Tingey House's interior, exterior, and gardens all underwent significant renovations, including extensive improvements to the house's infrastructure and mechanical systems, as well as a complete redecoration of all living spaces. The outcome of this considerable effort was a completely restored Tingey House that would not only be fit for habitation by the CNOs and their families for years to come, but also possess both the functionality and elegance to live up to its historical reputation as a place for entertaining distinguished guests.[53]

To this very day, Tingey House continues its silent watch over the Washington Navy Yard. Although it was originally built simply to provide a hearth and home for the first officer of the yard, it has become so much more than that over the last two centuries. Much as a ship gradually assumes the character of its crew, so, too, has Tingey House come to reflect the character of the more than 75 distinguished officers who have lived under its roof. From Thomas Tingey to John Dahlgren to its present occupant, CNO Michael Gilday, every one of its inhabitants has contributed in some material way to their nation's progress and the well-being of its Navy, imbuing the building's foundations with the memory of their diligence, their dedication, and their devotion. In this respect, Tingey House is more than just a house: it is a living monument to all those who have labored within and an enduring symbol of our Navy's history and heritage.

II
Art and Architecture

Built in the Georgian style, Tingey House was originally two-and-a-half stories with a central hall and flanking living spaces. A garden and a number of outbuildings, including a separate, two-story kitchen, were also a part of the grounds. Numerous additions were made throughout the 19th century, all of which were intended to provide increased comfort for the house's inhabitants and their guests. New rooms such as the dining room and music room were added, while on the outside of the house, the kitchen was connected to the main building and a glass greenhouse, tool house, and an open, wraparound porch (subsequently enclosed in glass with an attached porte-cochère) were all built. These many additions coupled with the replacement of the Federal-style trim gives the house the distinctly Victorian-style appearance it still possesses to this day.

Much of the work throughout the 20th and 21st centuries has been aimed at modernizing and rehabilitating the house. The 2007/2008 rehabilitation, in particular, completely replaced all mechanical systems, restored and repainted the exterior masonry, added new spaces for commercial and private kitchens, offices for the CNO's aides, and guest quarters, and redesigned the garden. Public spaces within the house were similarly rehabilitated and redecorated to accentuate its Victorian-style and provide a more formal setting for holding social functions. Furniture and decoration color schemes even incorporated Navy blue and gold in the double parlor, music room, and dining room, and Marine red, green, and gold into the living room to symbolize Tingey House's more than two centuries of service to the Navy, as well as highlight the Navy's enduring partnership with the Marine Corps. It is thanks to all these efforts that Tingey House remains a home fit for residence by the Navy's most distinguished officers and suitable for entertaining their equally distinguished guests.



Tingey House (c. 1805)

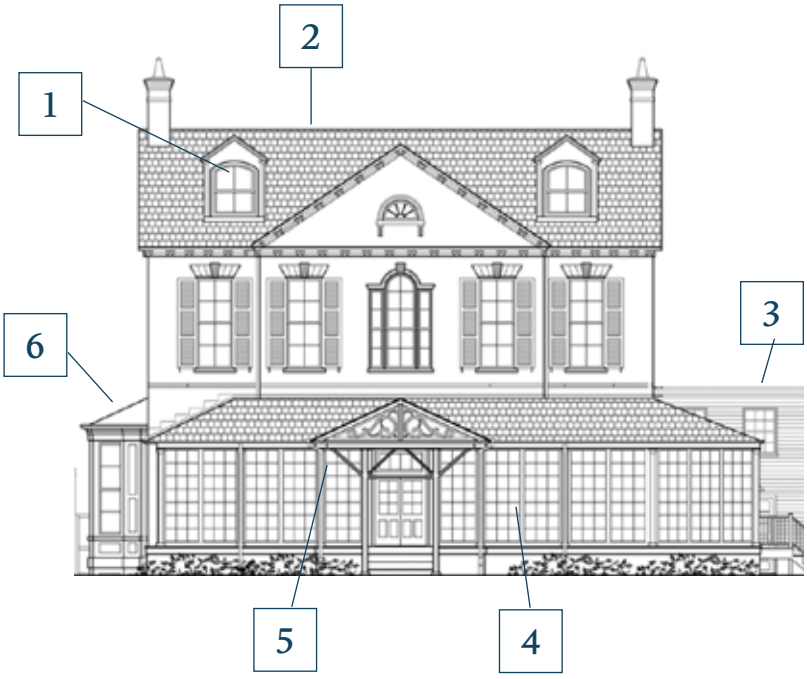
Georgian Features

1. Five 15-pane windows across
2. Palladian window
3. Modillion cornice
4. Belt course
5. Pediment with pilasters
6. Arched transom over paneled front door

Tingey House (Present day)

Additions and Modifications

7. Rebuilt front and rear dormers
8. Slate roof
9. West wing (dining room, office space)
10. Front wraparound porch
11. Port-cochère
12. East wing (music room, family kitchen)



Tingey House, Past and Present

Tingey House, 1883. (NHHC USN 901368)

Latrobe Gate and Tingey House, c.1900–1903. (NHHC NH 88472)

Left: Garden, southeast view, 1965. (Library of Congress HABS DC, WASH, 74A—7)

Below: Exterior, southeast view, 1965. (Library of Congress HABS DC, WASH, 74A—7)

Above: Single parlor (living room), c.1900–1903. (NHHC NH 88465)

Right: Entrance hall, 1965. (Library of Congress HABS DC, WASH, 74A—7)

Double parlor, c.1900–1903. (NHHC NH 88467)

Double parlor. (RKTects Studio)

Left: Front door.
(Spielmann Studio)

Below: Family kitchen.
(Spielmann Studio)

Above: Living room (single parlor). (U.S. Marine Corps 150508-M-DY697-027)

Right: Entrance hall. (Spielmann Studio)

Front door, exterior view. (U.S. Navy/200804-N-BB269-1158)

Tingey House exterior, southeast view. (U.S. Navy/200804-N-BB269-1161)

Sun porch. (Spielmann Studio)

Porte-cochère. (U.S. Navy)

Garden, west view with greenhouse. (RKTects Studio)

Garden, east view. (Spielmann Studio)

Tingey House. (U.S. Navy/090408-N-8273J-019)

Navy Artwork

One of Tingey House's most distinctive features is the sizable collection of Navy art that adorns its many walls. Working in partnership with the experienced curators of the Naval History and Heritage Command's Navy Art Gallery, each incoming CNO selects paintings that reflect his own artistic sensibilities and also capture the proud history of our Navy. This process not only enhances the house's architectural beauty, but also accentuates its historical character. Below is just a small sampling of some of the paintings that incoming CNOs have selected to decorate their new home.Tingey House Residents

John Trumbull (attributed), *USS* Constitution *vs HMS* Guerriere, painting, oil on canvas. (NHHC 07-763-A)

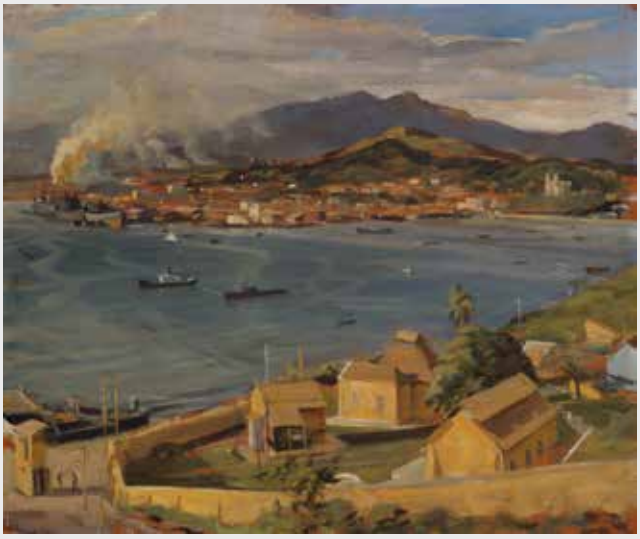
Under the command of Isaac Hull, USS *Constitution* triumphed over HMS *Guerriere* on 19 August 1812, earning the first American frigate victory of the War of 1812. Scenes such as this are quite typical of John Trumbull's oeuvre. Best known for his depictions of the American Revolution and the Founding Fathers, his most famous work, the *Declaration of Independence*, now hangs in the Rotunda of the Capitol.

Gilbert Stuart, *Commodore John Rodgers (1771–1838)*, painting, oil on canvas. Donation of Mrs. Robert Giles and Miss Nannie Macomb, 1946. (NHHC 46-390-A)

Both a friend of Thomas Tingey and one of the most influential Navy officers of his era, John Rodgers began his naval career as first lieutenant on board *Constellation* in her victory over *L'Insurgente* during the Quasi-War with France and continued to serve honorably in both the First Barbary War and the War of 1812. Considered the Navy's professional leader for more than three decades, Rodgers was twice offered the position of Secretary of the Navy. Although he declined both times, he did serve two terms on the Navy Board of Commissioners. This portrait is just one of many that Gilbert Stuart painted of famous Americans, with his most notable being the Lansdowne Portrait of George Washington.

Leslie Arthur Wilcox, *USS* Iowa *in Rio de Janeiro, 1907*, painting, oil on canvas. (NHHC 2009-152-02)

USS *Iowa* (Battleship No. 4), depicted here visiting Rio de Janeiro, saw action during the Spanish-American War, including at the Battle of Santiago de Cuba on 3 July 1898, where she helped to sink three Spanish cruisers. The painting's artist, Leslie Arthur Wilcox, was a noted British marine artist who designed and tested ship camouflage patterns for the Royal Navy during World War II.



William Franklin Draper, *Nouméa*, painting, oil on board. (88-189-BG)

The capital city of New Caledonia, Nouméa served as an important base for U.S. combat and supply operations in World War II, particularly during the Solomons campaign. Assigned to Nouméa as a combat artist, Lieutenant Commander William Draper would also paint scenes from the Aleutians, Bougainville, Palau, Hollandia, Truk, Saipan, and Guam, as well as portraits of Admirals Halsey and Nimitz over the course of his service. Following the war, he became a well-known portrait artist, painting famous individuals such as John Foster Dulles, Richard Nixon, and John F. Kennedy.

Above: Reginald Marsh, *Stand Clear*, *Practising Heaving a Line*, watercolor. (NHHC 88-159-HQ)

Best known for his depictions of Depression-era New York City, Reginald Marsh painted these scenes in 1944 at the Amphibious Training Base in Little Creek, Virginia (known today as Joint Expeditionary Base–Little Creek). The ships depicted here are tank landing ships (LSTs).

Left: Reginald Marsh, *Colors Aloft*, watercolor. (NHHC 88-159-HS)

The Commandants

Master Commandant John Cassin*	c.1804–12
Captain Thomas Tingey	1812–29
Captain Isaac Hull	1829–35
Captain John Gallagher	1835–36
Captain Daniel T. Patterson	1836–39
Captain Thomas H. Stevens	1840–41
Captain Beverley Kennon	1841–43
Captain John H. Aulick	1843–46
Captain William B. Shubrick	1846
Captain Charles S. McCauley	1846–49
Captain Henry E. Ballard	1849–52
Captain Charles W. Morgan	1852–53
Captain Hiram Paulding	1853–55
Captain French Forrest	1855–56
Captain Elie A. F. La Vallette	1856–58
Captain John S. Rudd	1858–59
Captain Franklin Buchanan	1859–61
Captain John A. Dahlgren	1861–62
Commodore Andrew A. Harwood	1862–63
Commodore John B. Montgomery	1863–65
Rear Admiral William Radford	1866–69
Rear Admiral Charles H. Poor	1869
Rear Admiral John A. Dahlgren	1869–70
Rear Admiral Melancton Smith	1870
Rear Admiral Louis M. Goldsborough	1870–73
Commodore Thomas H. Patterson	1873–76
Commodore John C. Febiger	1876–80
Commodore Thomas Pattison	1880–83
Commodore Alexander A. Semmes	1883–85
Rear Admiral Walter W. Queen	1885–86
Captain Rush R. Wallace	1886–87
Captain Richard W. Meade III	1887–90
Commodore Joseph S. Skerrett	1890–92
Commodore John A. Howell	1893–96
Rear Admiral Charles S. Norton	1896–98
Rear Admiral Alexander H. McCormick	1898–1900
Rear Admiral Eugene H. C. Leutze	1905–10
Rear Admiral Frank E. Beatty	1910–13
Captain Hilary P. Jones	1913–14
Captain Edward W. Eberle	1914–15
Rear Admiral James H. Glennon	1915–17
Captain Arthur L. Willard	1917–19

*Temporarily assumed command in 1804.

Rear Admiral Albert W. Grant	1919–20
Captain Charles B. McVay, Jr.	1920
Rear Admiral John H. Dayton	1920–23
Rear Admiral Benjamin F. Hutchison	1923–27
Rear Admiral Arthur L. Willard	1927–30
Captain Claude C. Bloch	1930–31
Rear Admiral Henry V. Butler	1931–33
Rear Admiral Joseph R. Defrees	1933–36
Rear Admiral George T. Pettengill	1936–42
Rear Admiral Ferdinand L. Reichmuth	1942–46
Rear Admiral Glenn B. Davis	1946–51
Rear Admiral George H. Fort	1951–54
Vice Admiral Robert P. Briscoe**	1954–56
Rear Admiral Harold D. Baker	1956–58
Rear Admiral William K. Mendenhall, Jr.	1958–60
Rear Admiral Thomas H. Robbins	1960–62
Rear Admiral Laurence H. Frost	1962–64
Rear Admiral Andrew J. Hill, Jr.	1964–66
Rear Admiral Charles Elliott Loughlin	1966–68
Rear Admiral Donald G. Irvine	1968–69
Rear Admiral George P. Koch	1969–71
Rear Admiral Arthur G. Esch	1971–75
Rear Admiral Ralph H. Carnahan	1975–77

**Deputy CNO, Fleet Operations and Readiness

The CNOs

Admiral Thomas and Peggy Hayward
1978–82

Admiral James and Sheila Watkins
1982–86

Admiral Carlisle and Pauline Trost
1986–90

Admiral Frank and Landess Kelso
1990–94

Admiral Jeremy and Bettie Boorda
1994–96

Admiral Vernon and Connie Clark
2000–2005

Admiral Gary and Ellen Roughead
2007–11

Admiral Jonathan and Darleen Greenert
2011–15

Admiral John and Dana Richardson
2015–19

Admiral Michael and Linda Gilday
2019–Present

III
Notes

[1] Although he had lived in the United States since before the American Revolution, Tingey was actually born in England and had even briefly served as a midshipman in the Royal Navy. Gordon Brown, *The Captain Who Burned His Ships: Captain Thomas Tingey, 1750–1829* (Annapolis, MD: Naval Institute Press, 2011), 1–6.

[2] Ibid., 39–45.

[3] Robert Smith to Thomas Tingey, 10 October 1801, General Letter Book, RG45, National Archives and Records Administration, quoted in Naval Historical Center, "Tingey House: Residence of the Chief of Naval Operations" (unpublished manuscript, c. 1980), typescript, 35–36.

[4] It is possible, however, that these wooden houses were either temporary structures later converted to brick or that one of them is Quarters "B," which is generally thought to predate Tingey House. "Tingey House: Residence of the Chief of Naval Operations," 36; Thomas Munroe, "An enumeration of the houses in the city of Washington, made November, 1801," *American State Papers*, 10, *Miscellaneous*, 1 (Washington, DC: Gales and Seaton, 1834), 257.

[5] Tingey had temporarily resigned his position over a pay dispute.

[6] Benjamin Latrobe to Captain Commandant Navy Yard, 18 May 1805, quoted in Henry Hibben, *Navy-Yard, Washington: History from Organization, 1799 to Present Date* (Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1890), 23. Although Cassin is sometimes referred to as "Capt. Cassin" in our documentation, he was not actually promoted to that rank until 3 July 1812. During the Age of Sail, it was traditional usage for a commanding officer of a naval vessel or shore establishment to be referred to as "captain" regardless of their actual rank.

[7] Thomas Tingey to Robert Smith, 7 February 1807, Captains' Letters, RG45/M125, National Archives and Records Administration, quoted in Hibben, *History of the Navy-Yard, Washington*, 37.

[8] Benjamin Latrobe to Shadrach Davis, 1 July 1805, "Papers of Benjamin Henry Latrobe," Maryland Historical Society.

[9] "Tingey House," 45.

[10] Thomas Tingey to Robert Smith, 10 February 1807, Captain's Letters, 1, no. 47.

[11] Thomas Tingey to Robert Smith, 8 June 1807, Captain's Letters, 2, no. 9.

[12] "Statement of the Officers, Master Mechanics and Petty Officers, attached to the Navy Yard, Washington; their several duties, and amount of their pay respectively," *Letter from the Secretary of the Navy Transmitting Sundry Statements of the Expenditure of Money at the Several Navy Yards Pursuant to a Resolution of the Twenty-Seventh of January Last* (Washington City: Roger Weightman, 1812), No. 1.

[13] Michael Crawford, et al., eds., *The Naval War of 1812*, Vol. 3 (Washington, DC: Navy Historical Center, 2002): 219.

[14] Taylor Peck, *Round-Shot to Rockets: A History of the Washington Navy Yard and U.S. Gun Factory* (Annapolis, MD: Naval Institute Press, 1949), 67.

[15] Mary Crowninshield to Mary Hodges Boardman, 24 December 1815 in Francis Crowninshield, ed., *Letters of Mary Boardman Crowninshield, 1815–1816* (Cambridge, MA: Riverside Press, 1905), 32.

[16] *The Charleston* (SC) *Courier*, 26 October 1824.

[17] In his role as Navy agent for the yard, Tingey was responsible for not only overseeing the work being done, but also acquiring the necessary materials and provisions. Thomas Tingey to Samuel Southard, 2 February 1829, quoted in Brown, *The Captain Who Burned His Ships*, 172.

[18] Peck, *Round-Shot to Rockets*, 93.

[19] Hiram Paulding's daughter reported that the ghost was already in residence on the yard when her father became commandant in 1853. Rebecca Paulding Meade, *Life of Hiram Paulding: Rear-admiral, U. S. N.* (New York: The Baker & Taylor Company, 1910), 134. The last sighting is discussed by Rear Admiral Thomas H. Robbins in Albon Hailey, "Will Famous Ghost Return to the Navy Yard?" *Washington Post*, 3 December 1961, B1.

[20] Until the mid-20th century, public records usually refer to the building as the commandant's house/quarters/residence. However, given the potential for confusion with the "Commandant's House" at the nearby Marine Corps Barracks, it is much simpler to refer to it as Quarters "A."

[21] On Hull's tenure as commandant, see Linda Maloney, *The Captain from Connecticut: The Life and Naval Times of Isaac Hull* (Boston: Northeastern University Press, 1986), 419–40

[22] "The Navy Yard Commandant's House, (Quarters A)," Historic American Buildings Survey, DC-12, 5–9.

[23] Forrest was actually a nephew of Tingey's second wife, Ann Dulany, and had previously served on the yard under the commodore. Brown, *The Captain Who Burned His Ships*, 158.

[24] Hibben, *Navy-Yard, Washington*, 90.

[25] The fate of all four was actually tied to that of CSS *Virginia* (ex-*Merrimack*). Charles MacCauley (yard commandant 1846–49), who was serving as commandant of Gosport (Norfolk) Navy Yard at the outbreak of the Civil War, burned the ships (*Merrimack* included) in port with Hiram Paulding's (1853–55) assistance. French Forrest (1855–56) would subsequently oversee *Merrimack*'s rebuilding and conversion into ironclad *Virginia*, while Franklin Buchanan (1859–61) would take her into battle at Hampton Roads.

[26] Craig Symonds, *Lincoln and His Admirals: Abraham Lincoln, the U.S. Navy, and the Civil War* (Oxford, UK, and New York: Oxford University Press, 2008), 23.

[27] Madeleine Dahlgren, *Memoir of John A. Dahlgren, rear-admiral United States navy (*Boston: James R. Osgood and Company, 1882), 330–31.

[28] Promulgated on 27 March 1804, this law applied specifically to the Washington Navy Yard. At President Lincoln's urging, Congress amended it on 2 August 1861 to allow commanders to hold the post, something which Dahlgren described as "the best compliment I ever received." Ibid., 341.

[29] Ibid., 332.

[30] John Dahlgren, *The Autobiography of Rear Admiral John A. Dahlgren*, edited by Peter Luebke (Washington, DC: Naval History and Heritage Command, 2018), 37.

[31] M. Dahlgren, *Memoir*, 342

[32] Ibid., 643–44.

[33] "Marriage a la Mode: A Fashionable Wedding at the National Capital, and Its Details," *Public Ledger* (Memphis), 2 April 1870.

[34] M. Dahlgren, *Memoir*, 646–48.

[35] "The Late Admiral Dahlgren: The Obsequies Today," *Evening Star* (Washington, DC), 15 July 1870.

[36] *The Critic* (Washington, DC), 3 February 1891.

[37] Although a Tingey family tradition claims that the commodore served during the Revolutionary War, there is no evidence to support this. Brown, *The Captain Who Burned His Ships*, 7–8.

[38] "Should Have Ships: Secretary Bonaparte Points the Lesson of 1814," *The* (Washington) *Evening Star*, 28 November 1906, 11.

[39] Grace Higginson, wife of Rear Admiral Francis Higginson, was actually the first president of the organization and the namesake of the NMCRS Mrs. Grace Glenwood Higginson Lifetime Achievement Award. "Navy Relief Society: Organization in Which Distinguished Men and Women Are Interested," *The* (Washington) *Evening Star*, 6 April 1906, 6.

[40] E. C. Drum-Hunt, "Society in Washington," *The Washington Herald*, 7 February 1918, 7.

[41] See, for example, "Ladies Prepare Gay Costumes for Naval Ball," *The Washington Post*, 22 November 1936, S3.

[42] Clay Blair, Jr., "The Chiefs and Their Tepees," *Life*, 24 August 1953, 20–23.

[43] "'Party Spotlights 'Tingey House,'" *The* (Washington) *Evening Star*, 20 December 1956, A-32.

[44] Dorothy McCardle, "Spines are Tingling at Tingey House," *The Washington Post and Times Herald*, 6 December 1961, B2; Winzola McLendon, "He Came in a Limousine—But He Left in a Ford: He Was No Longer Host—But Wasn't Guest Either," *The Washington Post and Times Herald*, 2 August 1963, A16.

[45] Leonard Gerson, "Quarters A, Washington Navy Yard." National Register of Historic Places Inventory/ Nomination Form. National Capital Planning Commission, Washington, DC, 14 August 1973.

[46] Kenneth Coskey, "Museum Report: An 1812 War Veteran," *Naval History*, March/April 1996, 54–55.

[47] Wife of Admiral Jerauld Wright, former Commander-in-Chief of the United States Atlantic Fleet and Supreme Allied Commander Atlantic for NATO.

[48] Kenneth Coskey, "Museum Report: An 1812 War Veteran," *Naval History*, March/April 1996, 54–55.

[49] Since assuming the office of CNO, Boorda had endured intense criticism from more traditionalist elements within the Navy. On the day of his death, he also learned that reporters were looking into whether or not he had improperly worn combat decorations related to his service in Vietnam. Although he had already ceased wearing them upon learning that he was not actually permitted to do so, he feared that this issue would turn into a major scandal, damaging the Navy and his own reputation. Mike Kotz, "Breaking Point," *Washingtonian*, December 1996, 93–121.

[50] John Mintz, "President Pays Tearful Visit to the Boordas," *The Washington Post*, 19 May 1996, A10.

[51] "Boorda's Widow Thanks Sailors," *The Virginian-Pilot*, 28 May 1996, A2. Although Mrs. Boorda described the words as "something like" what her husband would write, later reporting revealed that these were the exact words that CNO Boorda had written in his final note.

[52] Paul Stillwell, ed., *Oral History of William J. Crowe, Jr.* (Washington, DC: Naval Historical Foundation, 2009), 299.

[53] "Tingey House: Quarters 'A,' Washington Navy Yard, Washington, DC" (informational brochure, Washington, DC: Naval History and Heritage Command, 2010) 3.

About the Author

Martin R. Waldman is a historian at the Naval History and Heritage Command. He received his doctorate in history from the Catholic University of America in 2017 and his BA from the College of William and Mary in 2006.


NAVAL HISTORY AND HERITAGE
COMMAND